

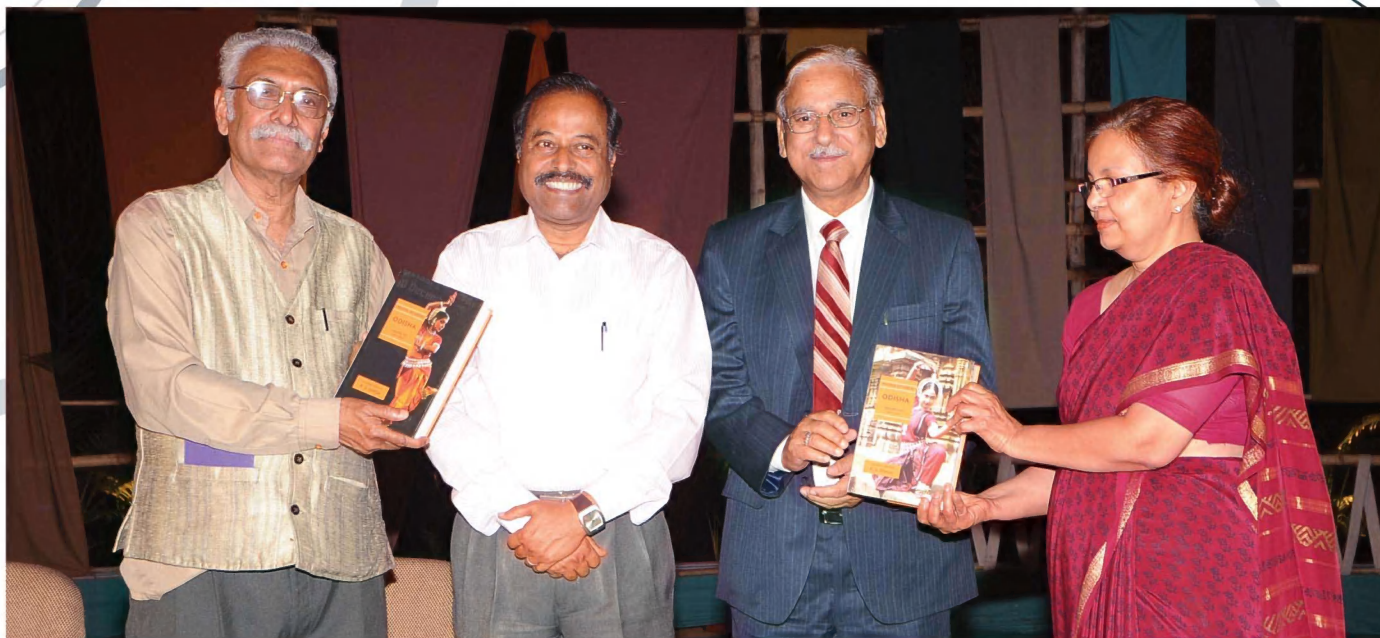


Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

January - March, 2013





Prof. T. K. Oommen (extreme left), Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi released the People of India - Odisha Volume on the Foundation Day of the IGRMS, Bhopal, a sister organisation of the Anthropological Survey of India at the IGRMS, Bhopal on 21st March. Next to him are Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. and the IGRMS, Prof. G. L. Badam, formerly of the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune and Smt. Abha Asthana, IAS, Director General, R.C.V.P. Noronha Academy of Administration & Management, Bhopal (photo courtesy: IGRMS, Bhopal)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



This edition of the Newsletter of Anthropological Survey of India is to showcase some of our important activities and achievements during the first quarter of 2013. I am personally delighted to report to our readers that the Odisha volumes of the "People of India" project saw the light of the day during this quarter, which were released by Padma Bhusan Professor T.K.Oommen of Jawaharlal Nehru

University and Smt. Abha Asthana, Director General of the Academy of Administration, Madhya Pradesh. These were the penultimate volumes of the States Series, leaving only the Madhya Pradesh volumes, which are in press. This exercise, to me, was not a mean achievement as we had to retrieve much of the original data, compile and edit them to bring into the publishable form. We also got the volumes on Khangchendzonga and Similipal Biosphere Reserves released during this quarter under our "Man in Biosphere" Projects. We reviewed all our ongoing projects in the Executive Committee meeting and the Workshop organized at Udaipur and Bhopal, respectively. We successfully organized an International Seminar on "Trans-border Communities and Cultures in Asia" in Kolkata with participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Russia. On this occasion we also mounted an exhibition titled, "Simanta", in

collaboration with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and Indian Museum, Kolkata. The Regional Centres of the Survey contributed much to the overall development of the organization. A Zonal Anthropological Museum was inaugurated in our Western Regional Centre, Udaipur and a National Seminar was organized at the Sub-regional Centre, Jagdalpur. The Central Regional Centre at Nagpur organized a National Hindi Workshop and a Seminar on "Role of Museums in People's Welfare" in Hindi to promote the Rajbhasa Policy of the Government of India. Our Community Genetics Project organized awareness programmes and counseling centres at different places as a part of our extension and outreach activities. The paleo-anthropology division of the Survey collaborated with several organizations in biometric studies of the ancient human skeletal remains, excavating and identifying chalcolithic skeletal remains and Acheulean lithic sites in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. We have completed the Project on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India and the manuscript is ready for publication and for wider circulation. We continued to work in all our ongoing projects and published the important findings by putting them in the public domain for the scientific community as well as for the anthropologically informed readers through our Website. On the whole, it was a very productive quarter for all of us in the Survey and we hope to continue with this impressive trend in future also with your guidance and encouragement.

Professor Kamal K. Misra
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Particularly Vulnerable Tribes Groups

The first ever volume in the country on all the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, after a series of editing and incorporation of additional material and inputs has been submitted, and is being readied for an early publication.

Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

After completing different phases of field work and analysis of data, report writing for all sixteen studied villages thus far [Nasatra (Assam), Sahajapur, Madhur Bhasha (West Bengal), Mhaisa Tibba (Himachal Pradesh), Nana Sanja (Gujarat), Jamgod (Madhya Pradesh), Bisipara (Odisha), Parhil (Uttar Pradesh), Kalenahalli & Mandy (Karnataka), Anjan (Jharkhand), Mutar (Kerala), Kamal Ghat

(Tripura), Manmow (Arunachal Pradesh), Jhaloria (Chhattisgarh), Ranawaton Ki Sadri (Rajasthan) and Byrlutigudem (Andhra Pradesh)] and the two villages that were reconnoitered recently [Kunkeri (Maharashtra) and Upper Pedong (West Bengal)] have been completed for submission and presentation.

Community Genetics and Health (Human Genetics Extension Programme): Sickle Cell Anaemia and β -Thalassaemia in Central India, Nagpur city

Seven counseling sessions were arranged in the laboratory for the Sickle Cell and β -Thalassaemia carriers while 36 samples were analyzed for confirmatory electrophoresis. Sixteen more samples were processed for DNA extraction under the MOU with Amravati University and 17 samples were subjected for confirmation tests, etc.

A four day camp was organized in the Raman Science Centre, Nagpur as part of "Man in Time and Space" Pavilion at the 2nd Science Expo. Seven hundred and twenty volunteers were screened and confirmed Sickle Cell carriers (4) and β -Thalassaemia minor (22) have individually been informed and eight counseling and awareness sessions were organized.

Community Genetics

Two awareness camps were held in Kamal Ghat village, West Tripura in the month of January by a multidisciplinary research team and collected 166 blood samples for the screening of Thalassaemia and other abnormal Haemeoglobinopathies. Preliminary analysis suggests that the load of abnormal haemoglobins in the studied population is around 21%.



Kodaku of Jhaloria, Chhattisgarh performing the Siyala dance

People of India: Bio- Cultural Adaptation in North East India

Anthropometric measurements were taken and blood samples were collected, during a field investigation in March, from War Jaintia of Darrang village, Jaintia Hills.

Paleo-Anthropology

Paleo-Anthropology section of the Anthropological Survey of India Survey



Dr. S. B. Ota (center), Regional Director of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal Circle during the Workshop

has taken initiatives for a biometric study of the ancient human skeletal remains, excavated from the Godavari basin of Araku Valley, received through the good offices of the Geological Survey of India, Hyderabad.

A team of researchers attended a week long on-the-site hands-on-training Workshop at an ancient pre-historic Acheulean site at Tikoda, Raichur district



Excavation site at the Bankura

organized by Dr. S. B. Ota, Regional Director of the Archaeological Survey of



Collecting data and blood samples from Kamal Ghat village, West Tripura

India, Bhopal Circle in the month of February.

On a request from Prof. Rupendra Kumar Chattopadhyay, Excavation Director, Dihar Excavation Programme at Bankura, Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, members of the Paleo-Anthropology section has extended help and assistance to excavate and identify the human skeletal remains for further study at the excavation site on 18th March.

People of India: Bio-Cultural Adaptation, Genetics & Family Study

Work on different primer sets is at various stages of progress while the completed sequences are being edited for the identification of new polymorphisms.

Growth and Development of Children in North East India

Final report on the Angami Naga children has been submitted.



Paleo - Anthropology Team in Bankura

EVENTS

Manav Sanghralaya ki Janhit Main Bhumika

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India inaugurated the two day National Hindi Seminar and Hindi Karyashala on "Manav Sanghralaya ki Janhit Main Bhumika" on 18th February. Many experts in the field of Museums presented their papers during the seminar and officials from different Regional Centers and Sagar Field Station have participated in the seminar.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Central India

Exhibition of the month, "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Central India" was inaugurated by Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. on 18th February in the Zonal Anthropological Museum of the Central Regional Centre. The exhibition was well received by a large number of school and college children as well as visitors in and around Nagpur city, and was extensively covered in the local media.

Zonal Anthropological Museum, Jagdalpur

Renovation work was undertaken for an important memorial "Abhuj Maria Ghotul", in the open air display of the Zonal Anthropological Museum of the Anthropological Survey of India, Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur.

International Seminar "Trans-Border Communities and Cultures in Asia"

Anthropological Survey of India, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal organized an International seminar "Trans-Border Communities and Cultures in Asia" from 23rd to 25th February. Prof. Prithvish Nag, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi was the Chief Guest during the inauguration while



During the National Hindi Seminar and Hindi Karyashala on "Manav Sanghralaya ki Janhit Main Bhumika", CRC, Nagpur



Prof. Subhadra Mitra Channa delivering the Keynote address, during the International Seminar, Kolkata



Prof. Barun De inaugurating the exhibition "Simanta", Kolkata

Prof. Kamal K. Misra, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India has chaired the session. Prof. Subhadra Mitra Channa of Delhi University has delivered the Keynote address, "Constructing Identities around borders: Conceptualizing village, space and the self on the upper Himalayan Borders". A total number of 26 presentations were made by the scholars from India and abroad during the seminar.

As an adjunct to the seminar, an exhibition "Simanta" was inaugurated by an eminent Scholar, Prof. Barun De on the afternoon of 23rd February. The exhibition was a collaborative effort of the Anthropological Survey of India, IGRMS, Bhopal and Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Anthropological Survey of India: A Journey of Seven Decades

Anthropological Survey of India organized an exhibition, "Anthropological Survey of India: A Journey of Seven Decades" from 03rd to 07th January, during the Centenary of the Indian Science Congress "Pride of India Expo -ISC 2013" at the Salt Lake Stadium Complex, Kolkata.

Second Science Expo

Central Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India participated in the four day event, "2nd Science Expo" through an exhibition "Man in Time and Space" held between 9th to 13th January at the Raman Science Centre, Nagpur. The Science Expo was conceptualized to bridge the gap between science and society by bringing in the Institutes of repute in and around Nagpur to showcase their research activities and contribution to society. Shri J. Sreenath delivered a lecture entitled "Genetic



Prof. N. D. R. Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Bastar University lighting the traditional lamp while inaugurating the symposium

Diseases and Community Genetics" as a part of the lecture series of the Expo.

Inauguration of Zonal Anthropological Museum, WRC, Udaipur

The Zonal Anthropological Museum of the WRC was inaugurated by Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Divisional Commissioner and Ex-officio Commissioner, Tribal Area Development Department, Rajasthan in the presence of Prof. K K. Misra, Director

of the Anthropological Survey of India on 10th March. On the previous day to the inauguration, a press conference addressed by Prof. K K. Misra was given a wide coverage by the print & audio-visual media. About ninety folk artists from the Siddi, Rathwa, Kalbeliya, Bhil and Sahariya communities presented their traditional dances in the *sanskrtik sandhya*. The Rabari and Rathwa artists stayed for about ten days to make their traditional paintings in the museum. All Heads of Office from different Regional Centers and Head Office, including the Executive



Dr. Subodh Agarwal while inaugurating the Zonal Anthropological Museum, WRC, Udaipur

Committee members have attended the programme.

Executive Committee Meeting

All Heads of Office from different Regional Centers and Head Office, including the Executive Committee members have attended the Executive Committee meeting, presided over by Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India on the 12th March at the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur.

Intervention on Traditional Political System

Prof. N.D.R.Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, Bastar University inaugurated a two day National Symposium "Intervention on Traditional Political System " in the Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur on 15th March. Dr. Sasikumar, Deputy Director, Shri D. N. Pandey, Head of Office, Head Office, most Heads of Office from different

Regional Centers and official traditional leaders, *Majhi* and *Chalki* of Bastar region have participated in the symposium. An exhibition on two themes "Traditional Tribal Painting" and "Bastar Dussehra: A Unique Cultural Heritage" was also inaugurated by Prof. N.D.R. Chandra.

People of India - Odisha

People of India, Odisha volume in two parts has been released during the 37th Foundation Day of the An.S.I.'s sister organization, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal on 21st March

by Padma Bhushan recipient Prof. T. K. Oommen, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in the presence of Prof. Kamal K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I.), Kolkata & Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, Smt. Abha Asthana, I.A.S., Director General, R.C.V.P. Noronha Academy of Administration & Management, Prof. G.L.Badam formerly of the Deccan College

Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune and a huge gathering of invitees and audience, in the premises of the IGRMS, Bhopal.

Workshop on Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development

Anthropological Survey of India has organized a two day workshop for the presentation of reports of sixteen studied and two reconnoitered villages, covered under the 12th Five Year Plan, "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment & Sustainable Development", on 23rd and 24th March in the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal. Prof. K.K.Misra, Director of the An.S.I. and IGRMS presided over the Workshop and Dr. K. K. Chakravarty, Chancellor, National University of Educational Planning and Administration was present

on the first day of the Workshop. Prof. Misra in his concluding remarks, outlined the paradigmatic shifts trodden by the village studies during the fifties and sixties of the previous century and urged all researchers to keep in mind the objective and subjective points of view of the earlier studies while analyzing and reporting their restudies.

Simlipal Biosphere Reserve

During the National Seminar "Emerging Trends in Anthropology" organised by the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University in collaboration with the Anthropological Survey of India, an An.S.I. publication, *Simlipal Biosphere Reserve* was released on 18th March by Prof. Prasanta Kumar Sahoo, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University in Bhubaneswar. Prof. A. K. Danda, Prof. K. K. Basa, Prof. P. K. Misra. Dr. D. N. Pandey, Dr. Samit Ghosal and Dr. B. K. Mohanty were also present during the release.

Recent Publications

Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, Vol. 61(2) & 62 (1), ISSN 2277 436X

The People of India Odisha (Parts I & II), ISBN 9788170462934 & 9788 1704 62941

Departmental Promotion

On the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, Dr.

B. Dhar and Dr. Samit Ghoshal have been promoted to the post of Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural) from the post of Anthropologist (Cultural). Dr. N. C. Sarkar, Anthropologist (Physical) has been promoted to the post of Superintending Anthropologist (Physical).

Smt. Juliet Paswet was promoted to the post of Upper Division Assistant from the post of Lower Division Assistant.



Simlipal Biosphere Reserve book release, Bhubaneswar

Superannuation

On attaining the age of superannuation, Dr. (Smt.) S. Dasgupta, Assistant Anthropologist (C), Smt. Bandana Das, Assistant Anthropologist (P) in the month of January, Dr. P. Gangopadhyay, Research Associate (P) in February and Shri R. B. Thakre, Cartographer voluntarily in March, retired from active Government service.



Prof. K. K. Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India along with the participants of the workshop on Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment Sustainable Development, IGRMS, Bhopal (photo courtesy: IGRMS, Bhopal)



Republic Day Celebrations, 2013

Front Cover: Yobin (Lisu), a trans-border tribe from Arunachal Pradesh
Front Cover Photo credits: Sridam Kundu



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